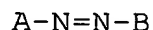


CLAIMS

1. An ink for inkjet recording, comprising at least one compound selected from azo dyes represented by the following formula (1):



wherein A and B each independently represents an aromatic group, or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic group, provided that a substituent on each ring of A and B, which is located at a conjugated position with respect to the azo group, satisfies the following conditions (a) to (c):

- (a) the substituent is not a hydroxyl group,
- (b) when the substituent is an amino group, the amino group does not have a hydrogen atom at the α -position, and
- (c) when the substituent is an ether group, the ether group does not have a hydrogen atom at the α -position.

2. The ink for inkjet recording as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of A and B in the formula (1) represents a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic group.

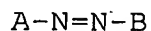
3. The ink for inkjet recording as claimed in claim 1, wherein the azo dye represented by the formula (1)

contains an electron-withdrawing group.

4. The ink for inkjet recording as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amino group not having a hydrogen atom at the α -position is an amino group substituted by a tertiary alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group or an unsubstituted amino group.

5. The ink for inkjet recording as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ether group not having a hydrogen atom at the α -position is an aryloxy group or a heteryloxy group.

6. An ink set for inkjet recording, comprising:
a yellow ink containing at least one yellow dye;
a magenta ink containing at least one magenta dye;
and
a cyan ink containing at least one cyan dye,
wherein at least one dye of the yellow, magenta and cyan dyes contains an azo dye represented by the following formula (1):



wherein A and B each independently represents an aromatic group, or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic group, provided that a substituent on each ring of A and B, which is located at a conjugated position with respect to the azo

group, satisfies the following conditions (a) to (c):

- (a) the substituent is not a hydroxyl group,
- (b) when the substituent is an amino group, the amino group does not have a hydrogen atom at the α -position, and
- (c) when the substituent is an ether group, the ether group does not have a hydrogen atom at the α -position.

7. The ink set for inkjet recording as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one of A and B in the formula (1) represents a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic group.

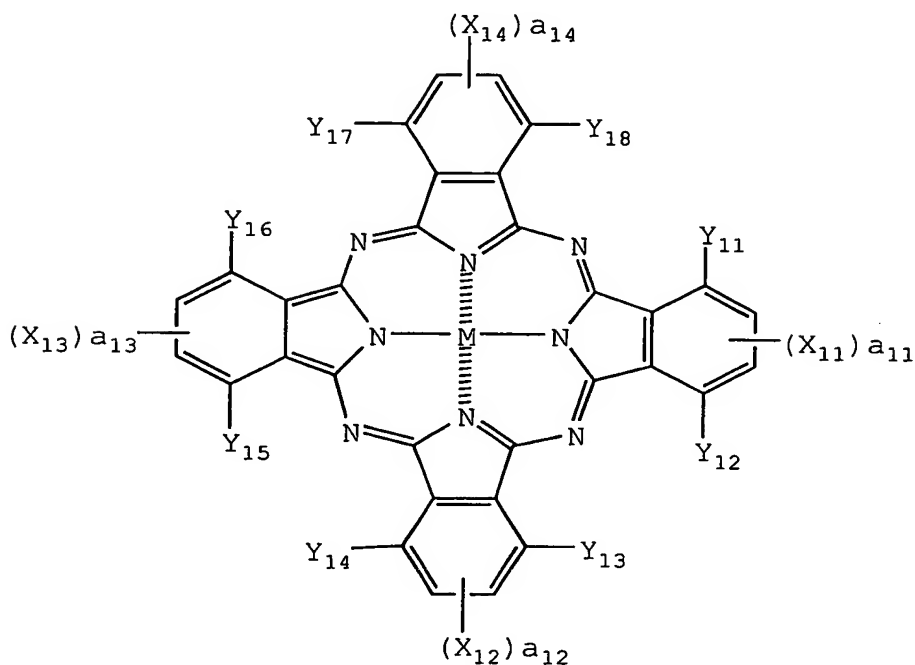
8. The ink set for inkjet recording as claimed in claim 6, wherein the azo dye represented by the formula (1) contains an electron-withdrawing group.

9. The ink set for inkjet recording as claimed in claim 6, wherein the amino group not having a hydrogen atom at the α -position is an amino group substituted by a tertiary alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group or an unsubstituted amino group.

10. The ink set for inkjet recording as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ether group not having a hydrogen atom

at the α -position is an aryloxy group or a heteryloxy group.

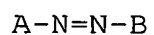
11. The ink set for inkjet recording as claimed in claim 6, wherein the cyan dye includes a cyan dye represented by the following formula (3):



wherein X_{11} to X_{14} each independently represents an electron-withdrawing group having a σ_p value of 0.40 or more; Y_{11} to Y_{18} each independently represents a monovalent substituent; M represents a hydrogen atom, a metal element or its oxide, hydroxide or halide; a_{11} to a_{14} each independently represents an integer of 1 or 2.

12. An ink set for inkjet recording, comprising:
a yellow ink containing at least one yellow dye;

a magenta ink containing at least one magenta dye;
a cyan ink containing at least one cyan dye; and
a black ink containing at least one black dye,
wherein at least one dye of the yellow, magenta, cyan
and black dyes contains an azo dye represented by the
following formula (1):



wherein A and B each independently represents an aromatic
group, or a 5- or 6-membered unsaturated heterocyclic group,
provided that a substituent on each ring of A and B, which
is located at a conjugated position with respect to the azo
group, satisfies the following conditions (a) to (c):

- (a) the substituent is not a hydroxyl group,
- (b) when the substituent is an amino group, the
amino group does not have a hydrogen atom at the α -position,
and
- (c) when the substituent is an ether group, the
ether group does not have a hydrogen atom at the α -position.

13. An inkjet recording method comprising forming
an image using the ink for inkjet recording claimed in
claim 1.

14. An inkjet recording method comprising forming
an image using the ink set for inkjet recording claimed in

claim 6.

15. An inkjet recording method comprising forming an image using the ink set for inkjet recording claimed in claim 12.

16. The inkjet recording method as claimed in claim 13, which comprises forming an image on an image-receiving material comprising a support having thereon an image-receiving layer containing a white inorganic pigment particle.

17. The inkjet recording method as claimed in claim 14, which comprises forming an image on an image-receiving material comprising a support having thereon an image-receiving layer containing a white inorganic pigment particle.

18. The inkjet recording method as claimed in claim 15, which comprises forming an image on an image-receiving material comprising a support having thereon an image-receiving layer containing a white inorganic pigment particle.